

PROBLEM

Badly constructed buildings, small apartments, leaks, uneven dangerous steps, walls and floors that are falling, insufficient number of fire escapes, poor quality of maintenance.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE

1. WE MET. WE DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION.
2. WE SPOKE WITH A LAWYER. HE IS WILLING TO SUPPORT US.
3. WE BEGAN TO TAKE PICTURES AND GATHER EVIDENCE
4. WE INFORMED THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN MAGUIRE, THE CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, THE HEAD OF CODE ENFORCEMENT, AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF OUR PLIGHT

RESULT

1. Gallanter, Harris, and Haynes met with us. They tried to play down the importance of the problem. THEY COMPLAINED THAT WE ONLY WISH TO ~~EMPHASIZE~~ CRITICIZE THEM.
2. THEY MADE PROMISES AND MORE PROMISES
3. Tenants who withhold rent were threatened with eviction.

BUT

Congressman Maguire's aide came. He visited many of the damaged apartments--not all. He got in touch with HUD and the director promised to make another visit to the apartments.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW

- A. We should go public with the problem--El Diario, the Star Ledger
- B. We should speak with the heads of Aspen--Gallanter
- C. We should go to the heads involved from the city
- D. We should go to the head of all--HUD

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Decide if we are going on a rent strike

Meet with all the heads of these groups and with all the tenants
(We are the heads in the neighborhood)

Organize ourselves; get the support of all the Aspen Buildings

Give moral support to each other